

Forts Carson and Hood Buffalo Soldiers integrate, honor unit's past, start new future

Story by Spc. Rodney Foliente
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FORT CARSON, Colo. –The Buffalo Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, hosted a regimental room dedication ceremony at the squadron headquarters here Friday, marking its return to Fort Carson.

The event kicked off as Soldiers moving from Fort Hood, Texas, and those already here integrate and become a cohesive unit, carrying on the proud tradition of the Buffalo Soldiers.

“This organization will show you what being a member of a team and family is all about,” said Col. Henry Kievenaar, commander, 2nd BCT. He said honoring the Army history and traditions are important to those currently serving.

“It keeps us tied to who we are,” said Kievenaar. “What we are today is because of the blood, sweat and tears of those who went before us.”

Having such a collection of unit memorabilia that will be seen by the Soldiers every day is important to the Buffalo Soldiers and helps infuse them with unit pride and cohesion, said Lt. Col. William Benson, commander, 1-10 Cav. Regt.

“This is the most unique collection of history in a squadron-sized element that I’ve ever seen,” continued Benson. “When you get people interested in wanting to contribute, it increases the importance and resonance of the items, because most were contributed by people with a connection to the unit.”

“We talk about tradition and ceremony and family and team in the Army, but when you walk into a place like this, you feel a part of it.”

The regimental room gives family members an opportunity to absorb the history of the unit, added Liz Jacobson, wife of the squadron executive officer.

“It’s like having a family room with pictures of relatives,” said Jacobson. “As a military family, we move so often. It’s nice to have something that makes you feel a part of the unit.”

The event marked a very proud moment, said Sgt. Maj. Anthony Griego, acting command sergeant major, 1-10 Cav. Regt., who also served in the squadron’s Troop C as a sergeant early in his military career.

“It’s really nice to share this tradition with family members and Soldiers alike,” added Griego.

The ceremony also included honoring the most recent combat losses of the unit from its last deployment to Iraq, adding a sad, but honorable page to the storied history of the Buffalo Soldiers, said Griego.

The memorabilia makes it feel like home for the unit, said 2nd Lt. Andrew Williams, mortar platoon leader, Troop A, 1-10 Cav. Regt.

“This is a good place to reflect and get strength when things are going bad,” said Williams, who came to the unit in March.

Soldiers can always fall back on tradition and learn from history, agreed Benson. He pointed to a one of the many pictures on the wall and explained how the unit began in 1866 and was composed of freed slaves and veterans of the Civil War.

“There were people who thought they couldn’t perform up to standards, but they did their duty every day and proved themselves,” continued Benson. “They overcame that adversity and didn’t let it stop them.”

“You can see what Soldiers and leaders from the unit accomplished in the past and it makes it easier to face the challenges of today and live up to the standards they set.”

As the combat brothers and sisters stand up to form a brand new team, the unit can carry on the proud traditions, added Griego.

To help integrate the Soldiers and families as well as promote esprit de corps and familiarity, the squadron also hosted an organizational day immediately after the ceremony.



Memorabilia

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, gaze at unit memorabilia after the regimental room dedication ceremony at the squadron headquarters April 20.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ruth Copley, 2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)



Cake cutting

Lt. Col. William Benson (right), commander, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Sergeant Major Anthony Griego (left), acting command sergeant major, ceremoniously cut the unit cake with a sword, finalizing the regimental room dedication ceremony at the squadron headquarters April 20.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ruth Copley, 2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)



Toast

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, participate in a ceremonial toast during the regimental room dedication ceremony at the squadron headquarters April 20.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ruth Copley, 2nd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.).